

6. Develop and implement a flood hazard management strategy to protect lands adjacent to Capitol Lake.

[For additional information regarding this objective, refer to pages 5-1 to 5-10 in the Capitol Lake Adaptive Management Plan - 1999 to 2001 (1999).]

BACKGROUND

In 1999 and 2000 GA partnered with the cities of Olympia and Tumwater to share the cost of obtaining up-to-date flood information. This work was necessary because the February 1996 Deschutes River flows exceeded the previous 100-year flood values established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

This preliminary flood report identified the maximum potential flooding on properties in downtown Olympia to be a greater depth and larger geography than previously mapped. Preliminary indications were that landscaping mounds of a foot in height inside Heritage Park might provide substantial protection from flooding. However, these mounds would eliminate or reduce visual access to the water's edge from the surrounding streets.



*Flooding on Columbia Street at Legion Way, c. 1975.
Courtesy of Gand Eichrodt Collection.*

To help prevent flooding events around Capital Lake, GA had adopted operation procedures for the Capitol Lake dam which incorporate Deschutes River flows, lake level and tidal phases. This is accomplished by coordination with the U.S. Geological Survey and Thurston County Emergency Services.

In response to the Nisqually Earthquake FEMA is funding a flood hazard management strategy to address these issues. The work will benefit the reconstruction of Deschutes Parkway, Marathon Park, and the Capitol Lake Interpretive Center. The study will utilize new hydrologic modeling of the Deschutes River, its sub-basins and the interaction of twice-a-day high tides. Sea level rise will also be a factor considered in the report.

FEMA is providing the \$161,000 for the flood hazard management study. It is projected to be completed by spring 2003.

Activities in Years 2003 - 2005:

Implementation of parts of the flood hazard management study will occur. The cities of Olympia and Tumwater may need to adopt new Flood Insurance Rate Maps for lands affected by the flood study. Activities to implement the flood study may be integrated into future phases of Heritage Park or within redevelopment projects in downtown Olympia. The Capitol Lake dam operation needs a direct communication link with the gauging stations on the Deschutes River.

CLAMP Budget 2003 - 2005:

Response to the flood study will be \$40,000. Providing a direct communication link with the Deschutes River gauging will cost \$20,000.

Activities in Years 2005 - 2013:

There will likely be additional response to the flood study required in the 2005-2013 biennium.

CLAMP Budget 2005 - 2013:

Future measures to mitigate flood risks are estimated at \$330,000.



Flooding at corner of 7th Avenue and Columbia Street (June 1951). Courtesy of Susan Parish Collection.